

Utah Wind Working Group Minutes

Date - Wednesday, May 31st, 2006

Time - 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Location – DNR Building – 1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT

1:00 to 1:05 – Introductions, Phil Powlick, State Energy Program

- Jason Berry is the new SEP Renewable Energy Coordinator (replacing Nykole Littleboy)
 - jasonberry@utah.gov
 - 801-538-5413

1:05 to 1:15 – Renewable Energy Tax Credits, Phil Powlick, State Energy Program and Sarah Wright, Utah Clean Energy

- Renewable Energy Tax Credits (personal and corporate taxes) set to expire at end of 2006
- Bill to renew credits stalled in legislature
 - Confusion over how credits would fit in with flat tax proposals by Governor Huntsman
- Administration supports renewal of corporate credits in upcoming General Session
- Some legislators support both corporate and personal credits in next session

1:15 to 1:25 – Anemometer Loan Program update, Phil Powlick, State Energy Program

- New anemometer site map is now on-line
 - Has links to summary and raw data for all sites where state towers have been erected
- Program gaining more applicants; more competitive
 - Formal criteria developed for selections
 - Applications evaluated twice per year
 - New application forms
- New Anemometer Loan web page and applications found at <http://geology.utah.gov/sep/wind/anemometerdata/index.htm>
- Potential New Projects
 - Tooele Army Depot – SEP supplying towers for siting new turbine
 - Kennecott investigating renewable energy; SEP could lend 50-meter tower for Oquirrh Mountains

1:25-1:35 – Update on Spanish Fork Project, Christine Mikell, Wasatch Wind

- The project is a go
 - Will be a 18.9 megawatt project (Nine 2.1 megawatt turbines)
 - Using Suzlon turbines
- Local opponents now supporters after proposed change of tower locations
 - Wind at new site better

- But delay still costly
 - Still needs annexing of land by Spanish Fork City
- Working with Utah Power on power purchasing agreement
 - Some issues need resolution by Public Service Commission (PSC)
- Turbines expected to be in the ground summer 2007

1:35 – 2:00 – Update on Stockton Bar Project, Gary Tassainer, Tasco Engineering

- Not sure if the 70 megawatt project is a go
 - Turbine prices increased in past year
 - Pricing from utilities much lower than expected/wanted
 - PSC ruling on pricing discouraging
- Regulatory climate in state not encouraging for wind power development
- General Discussion – Should Working Group designate a subcommittee to meet with PSC and/or Utilities Division staff to discuss wind issues?

2:00 – 2:20 – Presentation on new product for small wind: Storm 1.8, Tai Robinson, Intergalactic Hydrogen

- New small generator, specifically designed for low-wind conditions
- Storm 1.8 Benefits:
 - Spins at 300 RPM making it very quiet
 - Only need 5.6 mph winds for start-up speed
 - Tops out at 25-27 mph
 - Peak power at 18-20 mph
 - Comes with 30-foot guy-wireless tower, but taller guy-wire towers are available
 - Designed to be grid connected, but also capable of remote applications
 - Base price estimated at \$7,500
 - Unit with installation costs estimated at \$10,000

2:20 – 2:35 – Presentation on wind project zoning issues, Christine Mikell, Wasatch Wind

- A copy of the Spanish Fork wind zoning ordinance was distributed
http://www.spanishfork.org/dept/econdev/zoning/pdf/Title15_2005_06_July2005.pdf (Scroll down to page 15-46)
- Suggested that Wind Working Group use Spanish Fork and model ordinances to write a model ordinance that other Utah jurisdictions could adopt
- Would streamline process of permitting for future wind projects
- Members of wind listserve will be asked for interest in participating in this group, as well as a group to investigate regulatory issues for wind power purchases

2:35 – 2:55 – Review of Net Metering Statute and Utah Power Net Metering Tariff

- Copies of Utah Code 54-15 and Utah Power Tariffs 37 and 135 were distributed.
 - http://www.le.state.ut.us/~code/TITLE54/54_11.htm
 - To see copy of Utah Power Tariffs 37 and 135 search web for “Utah Power Tariffs 37 and 135”

- Utah Power credits additional generation in-excess of on-site monthly use at avoided PSC approved avoided cost rate
 - This is consistent with the Utah net metering statute
- The understanding of many participants originally was that the statute called for monthly crediting in kilowatt hours that would be carried-over month to month, with excess kWh being credited at the end of a billing year
 - The statute is ambiguous as to the meaning of “credit”; could be cash or kWh
- Utah Power representatives present agreed to help arrange meeting with Sarah Wright and Phil Powlick to see if the company would be agreeable to revising net metering practice

3:05 – 3:15 – Discussion about topics for next meetings

- Ideas Discussed
 - Public attitudes toward renewables and wind
 - Legislation to create more-favorable climate for renewable energy projects
 - Presentation on integrating renewable energy into public education

3:15 – Meeting Adjourned